



2161 #4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re patent application of:

Frederick W. Ryan, Jr., et al.) Attorney Docket No.: F-212

Serial No.: 09/748,889) Group Art Unit: 2161

Filed: December 27, 2000) Date: May 10, 2001

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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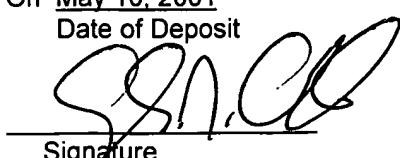
Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
One copy of each of the references

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